



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1725 | FAX (517) 373.0741

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, June 27, 2003

Contact: Emily Carney
(517) 373-1725

Michigan Rated 4th Best Fiscally Managed State

USA Today article cites bond rating and tax system as top in the nation

(LANSING) – Analyzing the financial health of all 50 state governments, *USA Today* recently conducted a taxing and spending of state revenue study that ranked Michigan fourth best in the nation, Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, said.

“Every dollar that is spent on taxes is one less dollar Michigan families have to put food on their tables, invest in their futures and spend at Michigan businesses to rejuvenate our economy,” McManus said. “I am pleased that this newspaper recognized the hard work and difficult decisions lawmakers have made to ensure our taxes stay low.”

USA Today examined the spending restraint, bond rating and tax system of each state to rank the management of fiscal affairs from 1997–2002. A four-star system was used for each category, with four stars being the highest score possible and one star being the lowest.

Michigan earned four stars in the tax system and bond rating categories, and finished the score with two stars in the spending restraint category.

“The legislature has made sound fiscal decisions in the midst of passing state budgets during these fiscally uncertain times,” McManus said. “These decisions will only have positive long-term effects for Michigan families and businesses.”

The average score of the *USA Today* financial health comparison was 6.8 stars per state. With a score of 10, Michigan was ranked fourth only to Utah, Delaware and Georgia.